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INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 8342  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 2155  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - JAPAN'S REFUELING  
OPERATION AND INTERNET CENSORSHIP IN CHINA

11. LEAD STORIES: Most Friday morning papers gave top or front-page play to the aftermath of the powerful earthquake in Haiti.

12. "Japan Should Consider Alternative Personnel Contributions" The moderate Yomiuri argued in an editorial (1/15): "It will be necessary for the global community to continue to make a long-term commitment to the 'war on terrorism.' Japan should think seriously about what role it will play in this joint operation. The MSDF's refueling operation in the Indian Ocean, which has lasted more than eight years, will come to an end. This is very regrettable.... The war on terrorism is directly linked to peace and security in Japan.... In Afghanistan, troops from more than 40 nations are working to help maintain public security and reconstruct the nation under difficult circumstances despite a total of more than 1,500 casualties. It is important for Japan to accept a certain amount of risk and work in unison with them.

13. "China Must Allow Freedom of Expression" The business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (1/15): "Freedom of expression on the Internet is indispensable for protecting democracy and human rights. We hope the Chinese government will respond to Google's call to stop Internet censorship with sincerity and common sense.... It is unacceptable that a nation on the verge of becoming the world's second largest economy is obstructing freedom of expression and imposing excessive restrictions on the Internet.... China must establish rules based on international standards."

14. "China's Integrity Is at Stake" The liberal Mainichi stated in an editorial (1/15): "This matter will test China's integrity.... China must rethink its censorship of the Internet.... It should accept common Internet

practices that are adopted internationally.

ZUMWALT